

AN AMENDED LIBRARY SERVICES ACT FOR A
COMPREHENSIVE LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The sound and continued progress of the Nation requires adequate library facilities and services to bulwark the educational foundations and the economic development of our society. In accomplishing this goal, public libraries, school libraries, and college and university libraries are interrelated and their problems and deficiencies must be attacked together.

History of the Library Services Act

The Library Services Act of 1956 provided for an annual matching grant of \$7,500,000 for five years to the States for the extension of public library service in rural areas without such services or with inadequate services (Public Law 84-597); The Act was so successful that it was extended in 1960 for five years more, beginning July 1, 1961 (Public Law 86-679).

The present legislation is limited to areas of 10,000 population or less and does not cover other essential types of libraries which also have serious deficiencies.

Purpose of the Amendment

The proposed legislation is intended to provide a coordinated national program of library development, involving public libraries, elementary and secondary school libraries, and libraries of institutions of higher education, and the training of librarians necessary to staff such libraries, to meet the increased educational, informational, and research requirements of the people of the United States.

Legislative Proposals

General Provisions:

Responsibility for planning and administering the programs rests with the States and institutions of higher education.

Responsibility for administration at the Federal level rests with the Commissioner of Education.

Authorization for Fiscal Year 1963 through Fiscal Year 1967.

Specific Titles:

I. Public Libraries

1. Removal of the population limitation of 10,000 or less.
2. Increase of the authorization to \$20,000,000 annually to be allotted on a matching basis to the States for the further extension of public library services to areas without such services or with inadequate services.
3. Distribution made to the States first on basic uniform grant to each and then the remainder on a population ratio basis.
4. Matching the Federal allotment by each State on a per capita income basis.

II. Public School Libraries

1. Authorization of \$30,000,000 annually for making matching grants to State educational agencies to assist them in establishing and maintaining programs of library service in public elementary and secondary schools.
2. Distribution made to the States primarily on basis of the ratio of school-age population of each State to the total school-age population of the United States. No State will receive less than \$50,000 annually.
3. Matching the Federal allotment by each State on a per capita income basis.

III. Institutions of Higher Education

1. Authorization of \$10,000,000 annually for matching grants to institutions of higher education to assist and encourage such institutions in the acquisition for library purposes of books (not including textbooks), periodicals, documents, audiovisual, and other library materials.
2. Distribution made to the colleges and universities in an amount not exceeding 25 per centum of the sum expended for library materials by such institution during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1962. Minimums are set for certain types of colleges and universities.
3. In the year for which a request is made, institutions cannot reduce below the corresponding figures for Fiscal 1962, the amounts to be spent for (a) all library purposes and (b) for books and related library materials; and (c) in addition, the institution must match the grant with at least 50 per cent of such expenditure going for books and related library materials.

IV. Library Training Institutes

1. Authorization of \$7,500,000 for Fiscal Year 1963 and \$10,000,000 for each of the four succeeding fiscal years to enable the Commissioner to arrange by contract with the institutions of higher education for the operation by them of short-term or regular session institutes for the provision of training to improve the qualifications of librarians or of individuals preparing to engage in library work.
2. Each individual selected to attend an institute would receive a weekly stipend of \$75 per week for the period of his attendance at the institute.

General Justifications for the Legislation

1. Great and continuing increase in the population of the United States with marked shifts in location, educational levels, and occupational status.
2. Increased need for more and better formal and informal education.
3. Advances in science, technology, business, and other human activities require supporting library resources and services.
4. Rising costs of books, periodicals, and related materials.

5. Present and future shortage in the supply of trained librarians to staff the various types of libraries.

Justifications for Specific Titles of the Legislation

Public Libraries

1. Although public libraries in rural populations of 10,000 or less have been helped considerably by the Library Services Act, much remains to be done for these and also the urban and metropolitan areas. Reports from the States indicate that 50 million persons still have inadequate or no service at all.
2. Demands exceed public library resources for expert service to special age groups such as senior citizens, children and young people, and in fields of adult education, business and technology, delinquency problems, and many others.
3. Public libraries are being overwhelmed by pupils after school hours as a result of the new emphasis on independent study.
4. Public libraries are feeling the pressure of the higher educational and reading levels of the general population.
5. Public libraries are involved in supplying services and materials for job retraining, particularly in urban areas.

School Libraries

1. More children will be in school. The next 20 years will see an expansion of nearly 26-1/2 million.
2. Currently, more than 10,600,000 children and young people go to public schools where there are no school libraries.
3. Over 40,700 schools, nearly half of all our public schools, have no school libraries.
4. Only \$1.60 per pupil is the average annual amount spent for books in schools with school libraries. This amount does not provide much material for young minds to read, with the average cost of a book about \$3 - \$4.
5. Increased emphasis on reading and individual study in order to deal with the slow learner, the average, and the gifted child requires more books, periodicals, films, and more skilled personnel.

College and University Libraries

1. Courses in institutions of higher education increasingly emphasize independent study and research which require the use of ever-increasing quantities of library resources.
2. Continuing growth in enrollment which has increased from 2.2 million in the Fall of 1950 to 3.6 million in 1960, and is predicted to reach more than 7 million by 1970.
3. In four-year institutions, 59.9% of all libraries are below standards, with less than 50,000 volumes in their collections.
4. In two-year institutions, 87.1% of all libraries are below standards with less than 20,000 volumes in their collections. Some new junior colleges have no libraries at all.

Library Training

1. A great deficiency exists in the number of trained librarians in relation to accepted standards. The current needs are:

Public libraries	10,000
School libraries	112,000
College and university libraries	<u>3,000</u>
	125,000

2. During the past five years (1954-55 to 1959-60), the average number of library science graduates per year has been 1,924, far too low to meet the deficit.
3. Modern demands upon libraries require staffs competent in subject matter and skilled in the techniques of making all information readily available to the general citizen, the business man, the student, the technologist, and the research worker.